IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 6 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 and 12 and add new Claims 25 and 26 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

input means for inputting first image data and ~~second~~ icon image data;

determining means for determining a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image; and

display control means for superimposing one of the first image and the ~~second~~ icon image on the other and displaying the first and ~~second~~ icon images on a monitor such that the ~~second~~ icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining means,

wherein the determining means determines ~~a display position of the second image such that the display position is changed within a range that is apart from the display position determined last time by~~ successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of a predetermined number of pixels from a predetermined position.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

instruction means for instructing display of the ~~second~~ icon image on the monitor,

wherein the determining means determines a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image according to an instruction by the instruction means.

Claims 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for calculating and storing an accumulated display time in respective display positions determined by the determining means,

wherein the determining means determines that a position where the accumulated display time is minimum among the respective display positions is a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image generation means for generating an object image,

wherein the display control means controls display such that the object image generated by the image generation means is superimposed on the first image as the ~~second~~ icon image and displayed.

Claims 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image size conversion means for expanding or reducing the ~~second~~ icon image,

wherein the display control means controls display such that the ~~second~~ icon image expanded or reduced by the image size conversion means is superimposed on the first image.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the image size conversion means expands or reduces the first image, and the display control means displays the first and ~~second~~ icon images expanded or reduced by the image size conversion means on an identical screen of the display means.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

an input step for inputting first image data and ~~second~~ icon image data;

a determining step for determining a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image; and

a display control step for superimposing one of the first image and the ~~second~~ icon image on the other and displaying the first and ~~second~~ icon images on a monitor such that the ~~second~~ icon image is positioned in the display position determined by the determining step;

wherein in the determining step, ~~a display position of the second image is determined such that the display position is changed within a range that is apart from the~~

~~display position determined last time by~~ determining successively a plurality of display positions different from each other as display positions of the icon image, and wherein the plurality of display positions are within a range of a predetermined number of pixels from a predetermined position.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

an instruction step for instructing display of the ~~second~~ icon image on the monitor,

wherein in the determining step, a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image is determined according to an instruction issued in the instruction step.

Claim 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a storage step for calculating and storing an accumulated display time in respective display positions determined in the determining step,

wherein in the determining step, a position where the accumulated display time is minimum among the respective display positions is determined as a display position of the ~~second~~ icon image.

13. (Withdrawn) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

input means for inputting image data;

image generation means for generating an object image; and

image composition means for compositing the object image generated by the image generation means with respect to the image inputted by the input means in a predetermined position,

wherein the image composition means applies predetermined processing to a boundary between the image and the object image so as to make the boundary unclear.

14. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein the object image includes an icon image or a display frame framing the image.

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein the image composition means draws the boundary of the object image as a zigzag line that changes every time the object image is displayed or at every predetermined time interval.

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein the image composition means adds the image and the object image at a predetermined ratio in the boundary of the object image.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the image composition means gradually changes the adding ratio of the image and the object image in a predetermined direction of the boundary.

18. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein the image composition means makes the boundary between the image and the object image black and white.

19. (Withdrawn) An image processing method comprising:

an input step for inputting image data;

an image generation step for generating an object image; and

an image composition step for compositing the object image generated in the image generation step with respect to the image inputted in the input step in a predetermined position,

wherein in the image composition step, a predetermined processing is applied to a boundary between the image and the object image so as to make the boundary unclear.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19,

wherein the object image includes an icon image or a boundary of images.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19,

wherein in the image composition step, the boundary is drawn between the image and the object image as a zigzag line that changes every time the object image is displayed or at every predetermined time interval.

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19,

wherein in the image composition step, the image and the object image are added at a predetermined ratio in the boundary between the image and the object image.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22,

wherein in the image composition step, the adding ratio of the image and the object image is gradually changed in a predetermined direction of the boundary.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19,

wherein in the image composition step, the boundary between the image and the object image is made black and white.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the range of a predetermined number of pixels is smaller than a display surface area of the monitor.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the range of a predetermined number of pixels is smaller than a display surface area of the monitor.